

Exhibit 1

SCOTT WITT

January 30, 2020

Page 1

1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
3 SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

4 -----
5 ROY C. SPEGELE, individually and
6 on behalf of all others similarly situated,

7 Plaintiff,

8 vs.

Case No. 5:17-CV-967-OLG

9 USAA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY,

10 Defendant.
11 -----

12
13 Videotaped Deposition of SCOTT WITT

14 Thursday, January 30th, 2020

15 9:08 a.m.

16 at

17 GASS WEBER MULLINS LLC
18 241 North Broadway
19 Milwaukee, Wisconsin

20 Reported by Tammy R. O'Neal, RPR
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SCOTT WITT

January 30, 2020

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1 Videotaped deposition of SCOTT WITT, a
2 witness in the above-entitled action, taken at the
3 instance of the Defendant, pursuant to the Federal
4 Rules of Civil Procedure, pursuant to notice, before
5 Tammy R. O'Neal, RPR and Notary Public, State of
6 Wisconsin, at Gass Weber Mullins LLC, 241 North
7 Broadway, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on the 30th day of
8 January, 2020, commencing at 9:08 a.m. and concluding
9 at 1:56 p.m.

10 A P P E A R A N C E S:

11 MILLER SCHIRGER LLC, by
12 Mr. Matthew W. Lytle
13 4520 Main Street, Ste. 1570
14 Kansas City, MO 64111
mlytle@millerschirger.com
Appeared on behalf of Plaintiff.

15 STUEVE SIEGEL HANSON, by
16 Mr. David A. Hickey and
17 Mr. Ethan M. Lange
18 460 Nichols Road, Ste. 200
Kansas City, MO 64112
hickey@stuevesiegel.com
lange@stuevesiegel.com
Appeared on behalf of Plaintiff.

19 SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP, by
20 Mr. Eric S. Mattson and
21 Mr. Joel S. Feldman
22 One South Dearborn
Chicago, IL 60603
emattson@sidley.com
jfeldman@sidley.com
Appeared on behalf of Defendant.

23 Also Present: Jay Church, Videographer
24
25

1 circumstances, and it is shown at five different
2 points in time, the original UL3 mortality, the
3 repriced UL3 mortality, the 2001 mortality that's
4 associated with the development of the UL4, the 2005
5 mortality which is the repricing of the UL4, and then
6 the 2017 mortality is a recent -- based on a recent
7 mortality study. And in the final column shows the
8 percentage improvement from the original pricing to
9 the latest 2017 mortality.

10 Q How many pricing cells are reflected on this chart?

11 A One.

12 Q Mr. Spegele's?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Did you analyze whether mortality improved over time
15 in every pricing cell every time USAA life evaluated
16 mortality?

17 A Not rigorously.

18 Q You know there's a question that's going to come
19 after that response. When you say not rigorously,
20 what does that mean you did do?

21 A I -- there were numerous studies in that interval,
22 and I picked the latest one really you could say as a
23 placeholder, just as a demonstration of the count
24 three theory, as I understand it from Plaintiffs,
25 that there were additional improvements in the

1 expected mortality.

2 And so I recall looking at others, but I
3 was only picking one for the demonstration here, so I
4 can't speak to the, you know, year-by-year,
5 cell-by-cell trend other than to say that it
6 generally -- based on a high-level overview, it
7 generally appeared to be improving over time.

8 Q But that was -- tell me if this is fair -- that was
9 more impressionistic as opposed to doing some sort of
10 data analysis to see if that was true for every cell
11 at every reevaluation of mortality?

12 A That's fair to say.

13 Q Did you in your analysis consider how policy beholder
14 -- strike that.

15 Did your analysis consider how policyholder
16 behavior would have changed had the cost of insurance
17 rates been lower than they were?

18 A No.

19 Q What can a policyholder do in a universal life policy
20 to either continue with the policy or have greater
21 investment in the policy or lesser investment in the
22 policy? Explain what their options are when they're
23 in the middle of owning a universal life policy.

24 MR. LYTTLE: Object to the form.

25 THE WITNESS: They often have premium

1 BY MR. MATTSON:

2 Q Throughout the life of the policy?

3 A Yes. I only took one to -- right, if you could -- as
4 soon as I saw an instance where the COI was higher
5 than the expected mortality, that said to me that
6 under Plaintiff's theory, there would be damages.

7 Q And that's a distinct exercise, isn't it, from
8 looking to see if overall, if you just kind of net
9 out any situations where the COI rate is over or
10 under expected mortality as you're using those terms,
11 yields a net positive or a net negative?

12 A Yeah, it's a different exercise.

13 Q Okay. Did you perform the exercise that I just tried
14 to describe, trying to figure out whether on a net
15 basis somebody was better off or worse off with the
16 COI scales that Plaintiffs are proposing here?

17 MR. LYTTLE: Object to the form.

18 THE WITNESS: I know with -- I know with
19 certainty that Plaintiffs would be better off with
20 the proposed scale because my understanding of
21 Plaintiff's theory is that the goal is to strip out
22 the excess. So the COI rates will be capped at the
23 COI rate, the --

24 BY MR. MATTSON:

25 Q At the mortality rate?

1 A No, the rate that would be used in my calculation is
2 really the lesser of the expected mortality rate or
3 the actually charged COI rate, because my
4 understanding of Plaintiff's theory is that the
5 breach was any charge that was in excess of expected
6 mortality. There's no contractual -- my
7 understanding, there's no contractual prohibition of
8 the company charging less than expected mortality.

9 So my exercise is to -- the exercise that I
10 went through, what I believed my charge to be, was
11 that I was to remove the excess from the COI to the
12 extent that that excess was a non-mortality
13 component.

14 Q Are you familiar with the phrase, Heads, I win;
15 tails, you lose?

16 A I am.

17 Q Isn't that kind of what Plaintiff is proposing here?

18 MR. LYTTLE: Object to the form.

19 THE WITNESS: I don't think so. Again,
20 Plaintiff's theory as I understand it is that the
21 alleged wrongdoing comes anytime that a charge is
22 levied that is greater than the expected mortality.
23 So it's not a straight substitution as much as it is
24 an elimination of the excess of that COI charge.

25 BY MR. MATTSON:

1 count five as well about declaratory and injunctive
2 relief; is that --

3 A Yes.

4 Q -- consistent with your recollection?

5 A Yes.

6 Q All right. So I'm just focusing on the three
7 different theories of why Plaintiff says USAA Life
8 did not abide by the contract, okay?

9 A Okay.

10 Q And you show total damages here of \$2,190.84, yes?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Is that showing damages for the count one theory, the
13 count two theory, or the count three theory or some
14 combination?

15 MR. LYTLE: Object to the form.

16 THE WITNESS: The count one theory. Also
17 my understanding is that that's also the count two
18 damages, and then count three is not addressed by
19 this spreadsheet.

20 BY MR. MATTSON:

21 Q Is there a dollar figure that you calculated for
22 count three damages anywhere in Exhibit 1 or the
23 exhibits to it?

24 A Can I look at my --

25 Q Of course.

1 A No, the only thing I put in my report was a
2 demonstration of one particular policy year for
3 Mr. Spegele. His 28th policy year I calculated what
4 the overcharge percentage would be in that one
5 particular year, and that overcharge percentage is
6 above and beyond what would have been calculated in
7 count one such that there is no overlap between count
8 one and then count three damages. The count three
9 damages are above and beyond the count one with no
10 overlap.

11 Q Okay. Let's go back to Exhibit 2. First why don't
12 you tell me what your understanding is of what
13 qualifies as count one damages.

14 MR. LYTLE: Object to the form.

15 THE WITNESS: Can I refer to my report on
16 that?

17 BY MR. MATTSON:

18 Q Yes, of course.

19 A I believe I took the time to spell out those
20 different counts.

21 Q Are you looking at paragraph 13 by chance?

22 A I am, yes. And I'm just getting ready to restate
23 that.

24 Q Yes.

25 A So my understanding is that count one, Plaintiff's

1 And from that limited data I attempted to
2 extrapolate various elements that would allow me to
3 calculate the damages as shown here.

4 Q Turning to count two -- and feel free to look back at
5 your report. I think it's paragraph 14 -- can you
6 describe what count two damages are in this case?

7 A My understanding is that Plaintiff's theory is that
8 USAA should have been limited to charging only the
9 expenses that were stated in the policy based on the
10 contractual language. I believe in the first year
11 there was an administrative charge, and then in all
12 years including first year, there was a maintenance
13 charge.

14 My understanding is that the calculation
15 that I have performed here takes the viewpoint that
16 any charge in the COI rate that's above and beyond
17 the expected mortality is viewed as an expense, and
18 as such the count two damages would be identical to
19 count one.

20 Q Is -- do you consider profit to be an expense?

21 A It could be from the policyholder's viewpoint.

22 Q Is it? That doesn't sound natural to me. Does that
23 sound right to you?

24 MR. LYTTLE: Object to the form.

25 BY MR. MATTSON:

1 Q That the profit is an expense?

2 MR. LYTTLE: Same objection.

3 THE WITNESS: I -- I was engaged to
4 calculate damages based on Plaintiff's theory. I
5 wasn't engaged to come up with their theories.

6 BY MR. MATTSON:

7 Q When you were at Northwestern Mutual, didn't you
8 distinguish between profit and expense?

9 MR. LYTTLE: Object to the form.

10 THE WITNESS: I don't recall there being
11 separately identifiable profit components of COI
12 charges.

13 BY MR. MATTSON:

14 Q That's not my question. As an actuary when -- well,
15 let's go back to a concept you mentioned before,
16 expense units.

17 A Yes.

18 Q Remember our discussion about that?

19 A I do.

20 Q When you were working on expense units at
21 Northwestern Mutual, was profit part of an expense
22 unit?

23 A Not to my recollection.

24 Q When insurance companies talk about their expenses,
25 they talk about things like paying the light bill,

1 paying their employees, paying for information
2 technology, things that they have to come out of
3 pocket to pay for, right?

4 MR. LYTTLE: Object to the form.

5 THE WITNESS: That sounds right.

6 BY MR. MATTSON:

7 Q And when they talk about profit, that's how much
8 money is left over after all expenses are paid,
9 right?

10 MR. LYTTLE: Object to the form.

11 THE WITNESS: Sounds right.

12 BY MR. MATTSON:

13 Q So in count two when we're talking about expenses,
14 we're not talking about profit, are we?

15 MR. LYTTLE: Object to the form.

16 THE WITNESS: Well, I think I described in
17 my report, if I am directed to handle that
18 differently, the model is capable of calculating
19 different count two damages.

20 From the policyholder perspective, my
21 understanding is that Plaintiff's theory is that all
22 of the extras that are dumped into the COI rate are
23 viewed as an expense. It's an amount above and
24 beyond that the contract allowed USAA to charge the
25 policyholder.

1 If information comes to light that allows
2 me to partition that amount between -- or if I'm
3 directed on how to partition that amount between
4 expenses and profit, the model is capable of doing
5 that. But as it stands right now, based on the
6 information that's available, the count two damages
7 would equal the count one damages.

8 BY MR. MATTSON:

9 Q What's your understanding, Mr. Witt, of what things
10 USAA Life considered when setting its cost of
11 insurance rates for the UL3 and the UL4?

12 MR. LYTLE: Object to the form.

13 THE WITNESS: My understanding would come
14 from the documents that I reviewed and the
15 depositions -- transcripts of the depositions. My
16 recollection is that many things went into the
17 development of the COIs.

18 BY MR. MATTSON:

19 Q One of those things was expected mortality, correct?

20 A I mean -- I think it's fair to say that everything
21 goes into -- every assumption, every material
22 assumption is considered in a typical pricing
23 exercise.

24 Q And one of those assumptions in the case of USAA Life
25 and the UL3 and UL4 policies was expected mortality,

1 Q I may be halfway there in understanding you, but I'm
2 not all the way there, so let me try to get all the
3 way there.

4 So if you look at Exhibit 2, I had
5 understood that the column labeled Monthly Pricing
6 Mortality reflects your understanding of what USAA
7 Life's understanding was at any given moment about
8 expected mortality?

9 A Yes, but I limited that to the four distinct points
10 in time at which a new COI scale was developed,
11 thinking that those were -- those were particular
12 points in time that USAA took action and had a -- had
13 an expected mortality assumption. And so the
14 original UL3 pricing, the UL3 repricing, the UL4
15 pricing, the UL4 repricing, those are the only four
16 sources of mortality that are shown in Exhibit 2.

17 And that includes all the way down into the
18 final -- the policy year 28. I did not switch to the
19 2017 mortality in this exhibit. I stayed with the
20 UL2 -- UL4, sorry -- I stayed with the UL4 repricing
21 mortality.

22 So if I were then to come in and calculate
23 Exhibit 3, it would -- I would be looking at the
24 improvement --

25 Q I'm sorry, calculate damages for count three?

1 A Sorry, for count three, I would be comparing the UL4
2 repricing mortality with whatever I was using to
3 represent the count three mortality. And for the
4 purposes of this report, I have used the 2017
5 mortality as a placeholder.

6 Q Why is that a placeholder?

7 A There are many mortality tables that were -- and
8 studies that were done between -- is it 2005? Let me
9 see here. I'm just looking for when the UL4 was
10 repriced. Looks like it was 2005.

11 So there are a number of mortality studies
12 between 2005 and 2017. I made no effort to ascertain
13 how those improvements might be reflected in count
14 three. I -- my instructions were to demonstrate that
15 a count three -- my model could handle a count three
16 methodology for whatever those assumptions would be.

17 And in my mind it remains an open question
18 how exactly the expected mortality improvement would
19 be defined in that period of 2005 and onward.

20 Q Would this count three methodology you're describing
21 change any of the analysis for pre 2005 -- the pre
22 2005 time frame?

23 A No, and in fact it wouldn't change post 2005 for
24 count one.

25 Q I'm just talking about count three.

1 of any reason why there would be any count three
2 damages prior to 2005. That would all be
3 encapsulated in the count one damages.

4 BY MR. MATTSON:

5 Q Okay. And then what you do is look at from 2005 on
6 what evidence there is at USAA Life about changes in
7 mortality expectations?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Can we look anywhere in Exhibit 1, including its
10 exhibits, and find which documents, which USAA Life
11 documents you would be relying on to perform that
12 calculation?

13 MR. LYTLE: Object to the form.

14 THE WITNESS: I believe they're listed in
15 there. I would be hard pressed to point to them on
16 the fly. I mean I can -- I can get there by
17 following the trail in my report. But I can't off
18 the top of my head tell you which exhibit or what
19 Bates number they are.

20 BY MR. MATTSON:

21 Q In other words there's nothing in Exhibit 1 that says
22 separately, here are the documents I would look at
23 for count three in performing the calculations that
24 you've just been describing these last several
25 minutes?

1 MR. LYTLE: Object to the form.

2 THE WITNESS: I guess I view it as two
3 distinct -- two distinct issues. There's the model
4 and understanding how the model works and how the
5 count three formula is distinct from the count one.
6 And then a separate question is what mortality
7 assumptions do you put into the model in calculating
8 those count three damages. I don't know which you're
9 asking me.

10 BY MR. MATTSON:

11 Q I'm asking you about the second one. And really to
12 try to state it more plainly, can you point me in
13 Exhibit 1 to where I would see the mortality
14 expectations you would -- you would plug into your
15 count three analysis?

16 A Okay, I'm -- I -- in paragraph 73 I describe how for
17 Mr. Spegele's 28th policy year I'm comparing the
18 mortality that was assumed in 2005 when the repricing
19 was done with the expected mortality using the 2017
20 mortality assumption.

21 So my recollection is that the 2017
22 mortality assumption came from a USAA-supplied
23 document that had a mortality study. And there were
24 other such studies in the intervening years between
25 1995 -- I'm sorry, between -- strike that -- between

1 2005 and 2017.

2 I made no effort at this time to -- to go
3 beyond what I just did here. And I looked at the
4 most recent. Seemed clear that there had been
5 substantial mortality improvement. I'll leave it at
6 that.

7 Q So I think I understand. In paragraph 73 of
8 Exhibit 1 you refer to the 2017 mortality
9 assumptions, right?

10 A Yes.

11 Q But I wouldn't find in Exhibit 1, and here's my list
12 of pre 2017, post 2005 mortality assumptions that I
13 would rely on in conducting this count three
14 analysis; is that fair?

15 A I believe that they are listed in the litany of
16 documents that were reviewed and provided, but I
17 don't have -- I don't have a written, you know, step
18 by step these are the mortality studies that I'm
19 going to look at.

20 Q Right.

21 A In my mind everything is fair game that USAA has
22 provided related to this case, related to expected
23 mortality assumptions between the time period 2005
24 and 2017.

25 Q And I think we're on the same page, but let me just

1 be sure. There's nothing in Exhibit 1 that calls --
2 specifically calls out which documents you would look
3 at for that 2005 to 2017 time frame, which documents
4 would inform your understanding of the then-current
5 mortality expectations?

6 A I think that's fair to say. If I am charged to do
7 so, I will look at all of those documents and -- and
8 this is where some actuarial judgment may come in --
9 and formulate an appropriate assumption.

10 MR. MATTSON: Okay. Let's take a short
11 break.

12 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're going off the
13 record at 11:24 a.m. This will be the end of media
14 unit number two.

15 (Recess taken from 11:24 to 11:37 a.m.)

16 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're back on record at
17 11:37 a.m. This will be the beginning of media unit
18 number three.

19 BY MR. MATTSON:

20 Q Mr. Witt, when you were at Northwestern Mutual, did
21 you ever work on a policy that was designed to lose
22 money from day one and never make money?

23 A No.

24 Q Would doing that be permissible under the actuarial
25 standards of practice?

1 future mortality, right?

2 A Correct.

3 Q And then time goes on and some people continue
4 living, some people die, and you can look back and
5 see how close your assumptions were to what actually
6 turned out to happen, right?

7 A Correct.

8 Q And all I'm suggesting is that those two things are
9 almost always going to be at least somewhat
10 different?

11 A Agreed.

12 MR. LYTTLE: Object to the form.

13 THE WITNESS: I would agree with that.

14 BY MR. MATTSON:

15 Q When you look at what Plaintiff's theory is for count
16 one, is it your understanding that Plaintiff's view
17 is that for the cost of insurance rate to be based on
18 mortality, it must be set to precisely mirror the
19 company's expectations as to future mortality?

20 MR. LYTTLE: Object to the form.

21 THE WITNESS: That's my understanding of
22 their interpretation.

23 BY MR. MATTSON:

24 Q Would it be your view that a rate -- strike that.

25 Is it prudent as an actuary to build in

1 one -- you'll recall this morning we talked about
2 whether you had analyzed whether mortality had
3 improved continuously over time for every cell
4 potentially implicated in this case. And I think you
5 said, and I'll paraphrase -- you said whatever you
6 said -- that you had looked at some of those things
7 at a high level but hadn't done sort of a
8 cell-by-cell analysis.

9 A That's fair to say.

10 Q So what I want to do is walk through one example with
11 you of where it appears to us that mortality worsened
12 for a particular cell over time.

13 A Okay.

14 Q And really just for the purpose of making sure that
15 you agree that that is in fact what happened for that
16 particular cell, okay?

17 A Okay.

18 Q All right. So first if you will look at the tab on
19 your spreadsheet for 1987 UL pricing.

20 A Could it be 1987 mort?

21 Q I think it's called 1987 mort, yes.

22 A Okay. I'm there.

23 Q And if you will then look at row 314, column I.

24 A Okay.

25 Q And you can -- can you tell me what the mortality

1 ex -- expected mortality as you understand it is for
2 that particular cell.

3 A 14.04.

4 Q And who does that cell apply to, who -- not what
5 person, but what demographic?

6 A Looks like that is a female smoker, age -- well,
7 issued at 65 and in their sixth policy duration.

8 Q And the number there, the relevant number of
9 mortality expectation is 14.04?

10 A Correct.

11 Q So we're going to look at two more cells with
12 different mortality expectations, and I guess I want
13 you to confirm that, A, it's apples to apples,
14 meaning it's the same demographic characteristics;
15 and B, that at least at some point the expected
16 mortality for that set of demographics worsened.

17 A Okay.

18 Q Does that make sense?

19 A It does.

20 Q Okay. So the next one to look at is the 1994
21 repricing which I believe on your spreadsheet is the
22 1994 mort.

23 A Okay.

24 Q And if you look there at -- I think it's the same row
25 and same column, row 314, column I, let me know what

1 you see there.

2 A If I'm in the right spot, 10.9161.

3 Q Okay. So in that comparison, mortality actually got
4 better if I'm understanding how these numbers work?

5 A I agree.

6 Q Okay. And then if we look in the 2017 mort tab,
7 again row 314, column I, what's the mortality at that
8 point?

9 A 22.8.

10 Q So a significant worsening of mortality?

11 A Correct.

12 Q Okay. So back to my original point, for this
13 particular -- well, first of all, each of the three
14 cells that we looked at is for the same demographic
15 cohort, right; in other words, these are --

16 A The same cell, if you will?

17 Q Yes.

18 A Yes.

19 Q Yes, okay. So same cell, different times, and what
20 we saw was the mortality for the people covered by
21 that cell got somewhat better and then got
22 significantly worse?

23 A Agreed.

24 Q And the ultimate mortality expectation that we see in
25 2017 is significantly worse than it was at inception?

1 A Inception was 14 point something, is that --

2 Q Yes, 14.04.

3 A I agree. And I do recall documentation talking about
4 smoker rates worsening over time. So I think when I
5 answered before it was a broad overall mortality
6 improvement. I may have misspoken. I -- I am not
7 under the impression that literally every single cell
8 had improvement across the board.

9 Q Okay. Understood. And just to be clear, the example
10 we just went through for the last few minutes is one
11 example of in this case mortality getting somewhat
12 better and then getting significantly worse, even
13 worse than it was at inception?

14 A Agreed.

15 Q When USAA Life repriced in 1994, it lowered the cost
16 of insurance rates for many insureds; is that fair?

17 MR. LYTTLE: Object to the form.

18 THE WITNESS: That's my recollection,
19 although my focus was on Mr. Spegele's policy.

20 BY MR. MATTSON:

21 Q Did -- when USAA Life did a repricing of the UL3 in
22 1994, Mr. Spegele's cost of insurance rates were
23 lowered, weren't they?

24 A I don't know if they were immediately. I think his
25 scale was lowered, and then once he reached a certain

[illegible]

Tamy Neal

My commission expires 8/2/23.